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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,068	02/17/2004	Sidney Fisher	60,130-2039; 01MRA0076	9503

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EXAMINER

WALSH, JOHN B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2151

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/780,068	<b>Applicant(s)</b> FISHER, SIDNEY	
	<b>Examiner</b> John B. Walsh	<b>Art Unit</b> 2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-30, 34, 35, 37 and 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 31-33 and 36 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 24-30, 34, 35, 37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,520,549 to Kalsi.

As concerns claims 24 and 38, a latch mechanism, comprising: an input member (20) having a first input position and a second input position (member can assume multiple positions); an output member (16) having a first output position and a second output position (member can assume multiple positions); a clutch (30), said clutch having a coupled condition and a decoupled condition (figures 3 and 4 ), said coupled condition (figure 2 & 3 ) permitting movement of said input member from said first input position to said second input position to cause movement of said output member from said first output position to said second output

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position and said decoupled condition (figure 4) preventing movement of said input member from said first input position to said second input position from causing movement of said output member from said first output position to said second output position (from the perspective of the clutch it prevents movement of the input and output member since it does not transfer any motion to those members in that position); and a stationary blocking member (column 2, line 21; lock link) blocking movement of at least one of said input member and said output member when said clutch is in said decoupled condition.

As concerns claim 25, the latch mechanism as defined in claim 24 in which said stationary blocking member prevents said output member from moving to said second output position (lock link prevents movement of said output member to a released/unlatched position).

As concerns claim 26, the latch mechanism as defined in claim 25 in which said stationary blocking member does not prevent said input member from moving to said second input position (when in an unlocked position the blocking member does not prevent movement).

As concerns claim 27, the latch mechanism as defined in claim 24 in which said stationary blocking member prevents said input member from moving to said second input position (lock link prevents movement of said input member to a released/unlatched position).

As concerns claim 28, the latch mechanism as defined in claim 27 in which said stationary blocking member prevents said output member from moving to said second output position (lock link prevents movement of said output member to a released/unlatched position).

As concerns claim 29, the latch mechanism as defined in claim 24 in which said input member is rotatable about an input pivot between said first input position and said second input position (figure 1; member pivots/rotates).

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As concerns claim 30, the latch mechanism as defined in claim 24 in which said output member is rotatable about an output pivot between said first output position and said second output position (figure 1; member pivots/rotates).

As concerns claim 34, the latch mechanism as defined in claim 24 in which said input member is connectable to an inside door handle (connectable through linkages and connections of the door latch assembly).

As concerns claim 35, the latch mechanism as defined in claim 24 in which said input member is connectable to an outside door handle (connectable through linkages and connections of the door latch assembly).

As concerns claim 37, the latch mechanism of Claim 24 wherein said stationary blocking member is fixed against movement relative to at least one of a latch and a vehicle chassis (fixed to the vehicle chassis since the latch assembly is fixed to the chassis).

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 31-33 and 36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Conclusion***

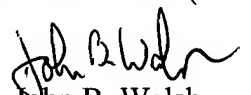
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 571-272-7063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on 571-272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
John B. Walsh  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2151